

REMARKS

Claims 5 and 17-25 are now pending in the present application. Claims 1-4 and 6-16 have been canceled by the present amendment or a previous amendment. The drawings have been amended. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Reasons for Entry of Amendments

It is respectfully requested that the present amendments be entered into the Official File in view of the fact that the amendments to the claims automatically place the application into condition for allowance. Specifically, the claims have been amended to be directed to the subject matter indicated by the Examiner as being allowable.

Objection to the Drawings

The drawings stand objected to for a minor informality. As the Examiner will note, FIG. 2 has been amended to properly identify the distance τ . In view of this, the drawing objection has been obviated.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1, 6, 9, 10 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hanya, U.S. Patent No. 5,450,885. Claims 1, 6, 9, 10 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japan '304 (JP 6-166304) in view of Hanya. Claims 7, 8 and 14 stand

rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japan '304 in view of Hanya as applied above and further in view of Remick, U.S. Patent No. 5,127,455. Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japan '304 in view of Hanya as applied above and further in view of Masaoka, U.S. Patent No. 5,690,761. Claims 12 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japan '304 in view of Hanya as applied above and further in view of Japan '907 (JP 3-32907), Europe '557 (EP 367557) or Europe '125 (EP 591125). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As the Examiner will note, claims 1, 6-14 and 16 have been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Accordingly, the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 have been rendered moot with regard to these claims. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejections are therefore respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 5 and 17-25 have been indicated by the Examiner as being directed to allowable subject matter. Since all of the rejected claims 1, 6-14 and 16 have been canceled, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and early allowance of the present application are therefore respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

All the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed and/or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently pending rejections and that they be withdrawn.


It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Paul C. Lewis, Registration No. 43,368 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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PCL/cl
4674-0101P

Attachments

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Attached hereto is one (1) sheet of corrected formal drawings that comply with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.84. The corrected formal drawings incorporate the following drawing changes:

Figure 2 has been amended to properly identify the distance τ .

It is respectfully requested that the corrected formal drawings be approved and made a part of the record of the above-identified application.